# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
SCHEMES OF INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a number of schemes are being implemented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to improve cultural relations with other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details of the said schemes;

(c) the details of annual requirement of funds for the implementation of the said schemes;

(d) the number of officials working in the Council as on date;

(e) whether misuse of funds by ICCR has come to the notice of the Government;

(f) if so, the details in this regard for the last 3 years; and

(g) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) (b) & (c) The ICCR`s mandate is to promote cultural ties with countries abroad. As part of this mandate, ICCR undertakes a number of projects which include exchange of cultural troupes, scholarships, managing Indian Cultural Centres abroad, deputation of teachers in Hindi, Yoga, Dance, Music etc., maintains Indian Chairs abroad, presentation of busts/statues of Indian leaders, books, CDs, VCDs, Audio Cassettes, musical instruments and publications. The ICCR`s budget for the financial year 2004-2005 is Rs.55.59 crores. The ICCR has plans to further expand the above-mentioned activities like assisting institutions, which run Hindi and courses on Indian studies by way of donation of books and short-term deputations of scholars from India. The actual realization of new projects will depend on additional budget.

(d) 235 officials are now working in the ICCR.

(e) (f) & (g) The accounts of ICCR are regularly audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General`s Office. The Audit reports up to financial year 2002-2003 are available. These reports make no mention of misuse of funds.